Parallax: Madness from the internet

PARALLAX
Wahnsinn aus dem Netz
„Ich könnte in DIE MUMIE 3 ja Brendan Frasers Bruder spielen!“ - Ein gutgelaunter Jeffrey Combs beim MOVIESTAR-Interview.

„Ich war ihr zu Fleisch gewordener schlimmster Alptraum!“
Ein Interview mit
JEFFREY COMBS

"I was her worst nightmare made flesh!"

An interview with JEFFREY COMBS

Caption: I could play Brendan Fraser's brother in THE MUMMY 3!
A good-humored Jeffrey Combs at the MOVIESTAR interview

PARALLAX, formerly FearDotCom, is the new film with Jeffrey Combs, part of which was filmed in Luxembourg. The director is William Malone, in whose HAUNTED HILL Jeff already played Dr. Vannacutt in a small role. The main roles are very well cast with Stephen Dorff (probably known to everyone from BLADE), Stephen Rea (CRYING GAME) and Natascha McElhone (RONIN).

The film begins with a series of mysterious deaths. The first victim is Lawrence Aronson, who was hit by a train at a subway station as he tried to save the life of a boy, but also a surreal girl, who played on the tracks. The police are initially in the dark, as the first victim is a German couple, a security officer and two colleagues from their own ranks. Mike Reilly (Dorff), one of the cops working to solve the case, tries to solve the mystery, supported by Terry Huston (McElhone) from the health department, since at the beginning of the investigation it could not be ruled out that an unknown virus was involved.

The two finally find some similarities in the murders: every victim had logged into the same website, Fear.COM, Everyone's computer was broken and their screens melted, and everyone who visited the site appeared to have died exactly 48 hours later. Further investigation leads Reilly to the trail of Alistair Pratt (Rea), also called "The Doctor", who apparently caters to the sadomasochistic preferences of surfers on his website by broadcasting live how his victims are tortured to death. But is it really Pratt who is behind the murders?

From what you hear, the film seems to be of a higher standard than HAUNTED HILL, also due to the fact that this time not only good actors shine in a fairly simple slasher, but also that a complicated and opaque story captivates the viewer which has many surprises in store and has an unexpected resolution at the end.

To find out more, I met with lead actor Jeffrey Combs at twelve o'clock sharp in front of the Inter-Continental. Completely unnerved by the hotel, he immediately fled with me into the city center to the “Grund” of Luxembourg.

He tells me indignantly that he hates cold cuts and gooey fried eggs (undercooked) for breakfast and that he was recently sitting on his hotel bed in just shorts and a T-shirt when the room attendant - who checks whether the guests have destroyed or stolen the entire interior - came in without knocking stormed his room and didn't even apologize. Something like that too! So we flee towards the bottom. Combs knows Luxembourg perfectly and is only amazed at the countless cows that decorate the city as full-size sculptures in all colors and designs.

Rude and rude hotel staff had spoiled Jeffrey Combs' mood. MOVIESTAR employee Iskra cheered the actor up again with a stroll through downtown Luxembourg

His comment: "Should this be art?" He's looking for a souvenir for his wife, but he thinks the clothes are too old-fashioned and the colors are just terrible. I have to agree with him and give him the motto "Green and blue decorates the pig”.[1]

[1] “Blue and green should never be seen unless there's something in between.” Fashion “rule” for people who give a shit.

Then we go in search of the mysterious burger restaurant "Maybe not Bob's". Nobody seems to know exactly where it is, but he entertains me along the way with funny AUSTIN POWERS sayings. When we finally find the restaurant , like a real American, he orders chicken wings with fries and a Coke and relaxedly talks about his genealogical research into the Combs family.

The Combs originally come from Devon in England, and the first Combs came by ship from London to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 to work for the Virginian Tobacco Co. He was paid for passage on the ship and promised a piece of land if he agreed to work for the company in the United States for a few years. He had probably gotten the piece of land after his working hours were up, but it was a worthless piece of swampland and the deal was a real waste. And then he tells me about his films.

MOVIESTAR: Why was FearDotCom renamed?

Jeffrey Combs: There were probably disputes. who has the rights to this term. That's why it's now called PARALLAX. It's kind of like THE CELL meets SHADOWS OF TRUTH(true?)

Stephen Dorff plays a detective (obsessed?) about a case he never solved. I'm his partner, who I know is a good cop - not always the most honest - but I've already come across what he's experienced through the whole system, so I'm (jaded) still serving the time until my retirement.

By the way, Dorff and I got along really well and learned from each other.

The film was something completely different for me. My friend Bill Malone emailed me and offered me the role

I knew Bill a HAUNTED HILL because I worked with him on the HBO series PERVERS SCIENCE, which also included Bob Zemeckis and Joel Silver.

MS: Speaking of which, Robert Zemeckis was the producer of THE FRIGHTENERS, which you also starred in, and since you got along well with Peter Jackson, why is it you didn't even have a small cameo in LORD OF THE RINGS, even if it was only as Orc No. 260?

JC: That's the orc who dies (deivonkam), right? (laughs) No. Seriously, I haven't been able to get a role.

I had spoken for it, but the problem was the British accent, I can fake English pronunciation, but if you're unsurprised by British greats like Ian McKellen and Ian Holm, you quickly notice who is a real Brit and who isn't

MS: Is THE ATTIC EXPEDITIONS your last film before PARALLAX in the USA?

JC: No, not yet. The world premiere took place in Luxembourg a few weeks ago, unfortunately it wasn't enough for the Brussels Fantastic Film Festival, but the film was shown at the Edinburgh and Amsterdam festivals. I'm just thrilled with THE ATTIC EXPEDITIONS because it's incredibly well-crafted, not straightforward, not logical, with some horror elements, but more focused on psychological horror. It's kind of a dream within a nightmare within a trip. The longer you watch a film, the less you know what reality is, it is a very complex film, especially for American standards.

MS: Would you say in hindsight that the rawness of Herbert West in RE-ANIMATOR was a curse for you?

JC: (sighs) In a way, it's a curse but on the other hand it's a blessing. Because of the role, I was unfortunately dismissed as a horror actor in Hollywood. Later, after DEEP SPACE NINE, I was considered a horror and sci-fi actor, it's really wonderful - film people love to categorize people like that and label them for a certain genre. But the role of Herbert West made many things possible for me!

MS: Almost 10 years ago at a convention in New York you told a funny story about an event during the filming of FROM BEYOND. It would be nice if you could do it again for the MOVIESTAR readers!

JC: Do you mean the one about meeting the kids?

MS: Exactly those!

JC: (grins) Well, we had already completed a month of filming FROM BEYOND. God, it's been 30 days in this terrible makeup with this miserable headboard with this snip dangling out the front that looked like a red dog penis, I practically looked worse than Quasimodo.

That's why I usually ate in my dressing room.

One day a commercial was being filmed on the same soundstage with a bunch of little kids, all around four years old, all dressed up in mushroom costumes and running around in the aisle.

In short, I was called to the shoot and when these poor innocent kids saw me, all hell broke loose. I was their worst nightmare made flesh, they ran screaming to their mothers - of course the mothers would have liked to lynch me - and I quickly ran away!

But that's really how it is in film when you're dealing with makeup and masks and all that stuff. Recently something happened to me, I was hanging tied to a cross made of pipes, my throat was "slit", I had blood smeared everywhere.

Well, and if you hang there for a long time, it can happen that the crew simply forgets you, that's not a bad thing, it's just human nature, you're just part of the set construction and have to make yourself noticeable again: " Ahem, sorry guys, could someone maybe..." - "Oh. Yes, of couse. "Sorry, Jeff, we're sorry..." - that's how you feel as an integral part of the decoration!

MS: In the scene from FROM BEYOND, where you run into the basement and are half eaten by that worm with all the teeth, you have a baby-smooth chest afterwards - did they shave your hair off?

JC: Yes! (laughs)

MS: Did you do that yourself?

JC: Yes, and I learned something important there: never shave with a normal razor blade, an electric razor is much better! Better and safer, and it doesn't itch as much when the hair grows back. I once had to shave my chest for a role in the theater when I was around 26 and playing an 18-year-old.

MS: Do you still perform often? (*in the theatre)*

JC: No, not in recent years. The fact is that theater is very close to my heart, this work really inspires my soul. I used to like doing that too, spending eight weeks in San Diego and then going somewhere else, back then I was still a gypsy. But today, with my family, I don't want that anymore, I don't like leaving my two girls alone for weeks, especially since getting involved in the theater doesn't really help financially. I earn as much in a week of film work as I do in 4-5 months on stage!

MS: I read that Woody AlIen pays every actor a flat rate of $5,000, regardless of whether they are a beginner or a superstar, because he thinks that no one is worth $20 million. How do you see this explosive salary development?

JC: Well, I'm of the opinion that you should take whatever money the market gives you. I just think that if someone is already making 20 million, then he could also distribute a million of it among the actors who don't earn so well.

No, seriously, it's often not that easy to earn money. A buddy of mine landed a job playing Kevin Costner's brother and I thought, "Wow!" When I asked him if he was paid well. He shook his head and said there was only the tariff plus 10%. Tariff is the lowest possible wage set by the union. My friend was basically given a choice. whether he wanted to work with Costner or not. And as an actor with a project like this you always have the hope that the film will be a success, that you might be better registered in Hollywood or even be able to establish relationships with a star like Costner.

MS: Thank you very much for taking so much time with us!

The interview was conducted by Nicole Iskra

Caption: Things are heating up in PARALLAX